

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2093

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIAN "INFORMAL IDEA" FOR MEETING IN
GENEVA OR VIENNA AS FOLLOW-UP TO SPECIAL UNGA SESSION

REF: (A) USUN 1426

(B) STATE 8119

(C) JIDDA 692 (NOTAL)

1. SAUDI PERMREP BAROODY HAS OBVIOUSLY PICKED UP FROM
MINPET YAMANI AND GARBLED IN THE RELATING OF IT AN IDEA
WHICH YAMANI FLOATED WITH AMBASSADOR AKINS ON
FEBRUARY 10 JUST BEFORE THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE
(REF C).

2. YAMANI'S ORIGINAL IDEA WAS THAT A VERY SMALL GROUP OF
ONE OR TWO MEN EACH FROM THE U.S., THE EEC, AND JAPAN (RE-
PRESENTING THE CONSUMERS) AND FROM SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN
AND ALGERIA (REPRESENTING THE PRODUCERS), ASSEMBLE
IN PRIVACY AND DRAFT AN AGENDA FOR TALKS, OR EVEN A PLAN
ON HOW ENERGY AND FINANCE RELATED TO ENERGY ARE TO BE
HANDLED IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS. OTHER PRODUCERS AND
CONSUMERS COULD THEN BE BROUGHT INTO DISCUSS DETAILS IN
A LARGER PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE.

3. YAMANI'S IDEA WAS INTENDED AS PREPARATORY TO AND NOT
IN PLACE OF THE POST-WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE MEETING
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OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, AND CERTAINLY NOT AS FOLLOW-

UP TO THE SPECIAL UNGA SESSION WHICH WAS STILL IN DISCUSSION STAGE. IN THE FORM IN WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY YAMANI, WE THOUGHT IT A GOOD IDEA AND ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO DISCUSS DETAILS WITH HIM. THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT RESPOND.

4. WE STILL BELIEVE THE IDEA HAS MERIT AND THEREFORE AGREE WITH USUN THAT BAROODY SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE PICTURE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL-EITHER THE BAROODY OR THE ORIGINAL YAMANI VERSION--REPRESENTS AN AGREED SAG POSITION. IT IS RATHER THE RESURFACING OF AN IDEA WHICH YAMANI MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT ALTERED IN THE INTERVENING TIME.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT ENDORSES THE CONCEPT, AMBASSADOR WILL DISCUSS IT WITH YAMANI WHEN HE RETURNS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. YAMANI WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO HELP DEVELOP A FORMAL SAG POSITION. IT WILL, IN ANY CASE, HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH AND APPROVED BY THE HIGHER OIL COMMITTEE BEFORE IT COULD BE PURSUED FURTHER.
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